(b) if so, by when the entire villages of the country are likely to be covered with telephone facilities with STD; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) By end of IXth Five Year Plan, the department is planning to provide telephone facilities to all the villages and STD facilities to all the Telephone Exchanges in the country.

Cops abetting illegal construction in Delhi

69. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Cops are abetting illegal construction in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the number of cops involved therein and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) There have been some isolated instances in which individual police officials are alleged to have been involved in unauthorised construction in Delhi. During the current year, one such instance has come to the notice of the Delhi Police. The suspect police official has been departmentally proceeded against.

Small scale units engaged in defence equipment production

70. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small industrial units are also engaged in manufacture and supply of defence equipments and spares in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the role played by them in this regard;

(c) the number of small industrial units from Maharashtra supplying defence equipments and spares; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to encourage these units to expand their activities and increase the participation of other entrepreneurs in this regard from the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contribution of small industrial units towards development and manufacture of defence equipment and spares has been very significant. During the year 1995-96 over 40% of the total value of ab-initio development orders placed by the Supplies Wing/Technical Committees were on small scale industrial units.

(c) At present, 323 industrial units from Maharashtra are registered for suppy of Defence equipment and spares to the Defence Services.

(d) In order to encourage greater participation of the private sector and specifically the small industrial units in the development of defence equipment, a time bound Action Plan in association with Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industry) was drawn by the Ministry during 1994. As a follow up action, workshops and exhibitions are periodically organised in various States for the representatives of small industrial units to identify the equipment required by the Defence and manufacture the same to meet Defence requirements. Method of registration of Industrial units for supply of stores to Defence has been simplified and made more liberal.

Operating ISD/STD/PCO booths in Andhra Pradesh

71. DR. MOHAN BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ISD/STD/PCO booths in operation in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken to provide adequate STD/PCO services in pubic places in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Number of STD/ISD Public Telephones in Andhra Pradesh as on 30.9.96 are 7894.

(b) Public places are already adequately covered by STD PCOs. Advertisements are oftenly given in the newspapers calling for applications from eligible candidates. Sanction of more STD/PCOs to eligible candidates at public places will be considered by STD/PCO Allotment Committees.

Demand for Telephones in Pentapadu Mandal in West Godawari District

72. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing demand for telephones in Pentapadu Mandal of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 200 people are in the waiting list from Alampuram Panchayat in Pentapadu Mandal for the last three years;

(c) whether local Telecom Authorities have taken any steps to meet this demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Total demand of 476 consisting of 254 working connections and 222 in the waiting list as on 31.10.96 in Pentapadu Mandal of West Godavari Distt. in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. As on 31.10.96 only 96 applicants are in the waiting list from Alampuram Panchayat in Pentapadu Mandal. The earliest application is of 1.4.1994.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is planned to upgrade the existing exchange at Alampuram Panchayat during 1996-97.

Letter Box at Sultanpuri, Delhi

73. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that P2 Block, Sultanpuri, Delhi which has an approximate population of over 5000, does not have a letter box forcing the people to traverse a considerable distance to post their letters;

(c) whether any representation through an Hon'ble MP has been received by the Chief Postmaster General' Office, Delhi in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken or are taking to establish a letter box at P2 block, Sultanpuri, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) A Letter Box has been installed at P2 Block, Sultanpuri, Delhi on 15.11.1996.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Different rates for Telephone Services in the Rural Areas in Andhra Pradesh

74. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether uniform rent is being charged for telephones operating in rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that different rates are being charged in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh for telephones;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(d) the steps proposed to equalise rentals of rural phones in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The rentals are being charged uniformly for telephones operating in rural areas based on the exchange system.

(b) The telephone rentals are being charged based on exchange system to which rural area pertains.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Non-payment of dues to Maharashtra by National Textile Corporation

75. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter in August, 1996 from Government of Maharashtra requesting for payment of a balance towards purchase of cotton by National Textile Corporation;